

## GOVERNOR LINGLE RELEASES \$1.65 MILLION FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO ALA WAI SMALL BOAT HARBOR

At the Ala Wai Harbor Users' meeting on April 12, Representative Stevens announced the release of funds for the replacement of "F" dock.

This project was a priority of Rep. Stevens who had urged the Administration to fund this critical need. Below is the text of the Governor's press release.

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Governor Linda Lingle has released \$1,650,000 to replace Dock "F" at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor. Dock "F" will be replaced with a new floating dock system, including electrical and water utilities, an aluminum security gate and locker boxes.

The "F" dock (approximately 70 boat slips) has been closed since September 2003 due to safety concerns. In addition to the boaters displaced by the dock closure, there are about 700 boaters on the wait list for a slip at the Ala Wai Small Boat Harbor.

"The replacement of Dock "F" will provide more boaters with safe access to the harbor as well as much-needed revenues to support the Boating and Recreation's operations," said Governor Lingle.

## OFFICE CONTACT INFORMATION

SUMMER HOURS— 9:00 AM TO 3:00 PM  
Monday to Friday



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*Continued from Page 1*

I hope we didn't do too much damage and actually passed a few bills that will be of benefit to our residents and visitors to Hawaii.

**Identity Theft Protection:** This is one of the fastest growing crimes affecting Hawaii's citizens today. Working with the Governor and the Attorney General, The Legislature passed measures that will help protect us from this crime.

**Senate Bill 2159** criminalizes the intentional possession of another person's confidential personal information.

**Senate Bill 2290** mandates notification to affected persons whose companies or government agencies experience a security breach. This also allows such people to take steps in remedying and reducing the chances of identity theft.

**Senate Bill 2292** requires government and businesses to destroy documents and records containing personal information when disposing of such documents and records. This bill also guards against "dumpster diving" or going through trash to gather personal information.

**Senate Bill 2293** prohibits businesses from disclosing social security numbers to the public, including it on I.D. cards or mailings, or selling it to third parties without your consent. This should also render mail theft a less attractive option to acquire such information.

### PUBLIC SAFETY

**"Three Strikes:"** After years of pushing for tougher laws against violent career criminals and last minute attempts to kill the bill, the Legislature was able to pass out a "three strikes" law that will allow prosecutors to keep this category of criminal off our streets.

**Electronic Surveillance:** Another 'tough on crime bill' issue, this bill conforms our electronic surveillance laws with those of the federal government, allowing federal and state law enforcement officials to collaborate more closely while modernizing a state law that was unsafe for local law enforcement people.

**Constitutional Amendment; Sexual Assault:** Originally passed and ratified by the electorate in the 2004 General Election to help convict pedophiles, the Legislature needed to pass this amendment once again because of a law suit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union.

## May 2006 COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER



**Representative Anne V. Stevens**  
**HOUSE DISTRICT 23**

The twenty-third legislature adjourned sine die on May 4, 2006. It came down to the wire, but a small amount of tax relief was provided to the residents of Hawaii in the form of House Bill 957. Simply put, the bill expands tax brackets by 20% and increases the standard deduction up to 40% of the 2005 Federal level.

The relief amounts to about \$50 million for the residents of the state, an unfortunately small amount when the state's budget surplus is topping \$650 million. There was more than enough in the surplus to give our residents double, triple or quadruple the amount of tax relief. Even with more generous tax relief, we could still fix the schools and tackle many infrastructure projects.

According to the Department of Taxation, for a family of four with an adjusted gross income of \$41,600, the tax savings will be \$256.

Another piece of legislation that missed the mark for consumers was House Bill 3115, which suspends Hawaii's gas cap and allows the Governor to reinstate the cap if prices rise substantially. The legislation is flawed because the gas cap has been shown not to be effective and should have been repealed.

Although legislators had the interest of Hawaii's citizens in mind, tampering with the free marketplace did not achieve the lower gasoline prices we all want.

*Continued on back page*

# Whose Hawaii is this anyway?

By Anne V. Stevens

Recently, a friend related an incident that occurred while he was waiting to cross the corner of Lewers Street and Kalakaua Avenue in Waikiki. He was approached by a visiting family of tourists from the mainland and asked:

"Excuse me, but can you tell us where the real people live?"

One day, one year, very soon, the "real" people of Hawaii, the kama'aina, are going to have to make up their mind about their home State—and the state of their home.

There is an increasing level of discontent rising among residents—certainly those who live in HD 23: Ala Moana, Kaka'ako and Waikiki. Their concern is the increasing emphasis on tourism and tourist accommodation, how it continues to take precedence over resident needs, with a corresponding indifference to the welfare and interests of the people who were born, raised, live, work and retired here—many of whom are now beginning to find it difficult to continue to afford to live in the place they have always called "home."

Rent, maintenance fees, parking, gas prices, traffic density, noise, and the deterioration of reasonably priced and conveniently located shopping is making life for local residents increasingly less safe, less comfortable, less affordable and less attractive.

The Kaka'ako area is also undergoing an almost unprecedented building boom in residential high rise development, attracting non-residential, offshore owner investors.

The residential infrastructure also continues to fail. It's hard to imagine how our beautiful oceans, harbors, beaches and shorelines can be sullied with millions of gallons of raw sewage.

Streets throughout Ala Moana, Kaka'ako and Waikiki are riddled with rain-gouged potholes and depressions that flood during even mild down pours.

Then there is the homeless issue; a huge group of disenfranchised folk occupying parks, gardens, doorways and, so often, begging on the streets. Many are now coralled in a warehouse on Pier 1.

Tourists come and go and come again but they do not live here year 'round. While an important and vital source of income to Hawaii, one wonders for whom all this is truly vital—the hotel and tourist industry, or the people of Hawaii? This is a moot point. Without one the other is vulnerable. They are very much interdependent. It's all really a matter of balance—or, to coin the new buzzword, "sustainability."

This year's legislative session has won the equivalent of an Oscar from the TV and Film industries for its proposal to increase favorable tax incentives to filmmakers. Yet no tax incentives for the high technology section—an industry that could employ present and future grads in this field.

So where will our kids go to work if they want to be computer programmers, information specialists, computer generated imagery (CGI) experts, —anything in fact that isn't tourist, construction, maritime, military or retail oriented? The mainland—where many of our graduates are right now, unable or unwilling to return to their home state because of a lack of job opportunities here in their chosen fields.

All this brings me to wonder about the future of our islands home. Are we to be principally a backlot for Hollywood? An investment haven for mainland retirees? A luxury resort for the worlds' tourists? Or will there still be a place in the sun for the rest of us—those who call Hawaii home?

Will there be occupations for our children other than our poorly paid service industry jobs; the waitstaff, busboys, chefs, valets, cleaners, concierges, musicians, bartenders and beachboys, nurturing the needs of visitors?

We have limited resources; resources that are being gradually eroded and exhausted. In order to survive, Hawaii will need to broaden its horizons to benefit its future generations of residents. Our children, grandchildren and beyond.

So where *do* the real people live?

You may not want to know.



*Rep. Stevens talks with Mr. Suda at the Homeless Shelter in Kaka'ako*



*Rep. Stevens with Dick Grimm, Hawaii Foodbank.*



*Reps. Stevens, Finnegan, Sonson and Foodbank volunteers load truck with donations.*